

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-53 (canceled)

Claim 54 (currently amended): A process for purifying an albumin solution, the process comprising

- (1) subjecting the albumin solution, ~~at pH 5.0—6.0,~~ to cation exchange chromatography in the negative mode with respect to the albumin in order to yield an albumin-containing cation exchange product;
- (2) subjecting the albumin-containing cation exchange product, with or without intervening purification steps, to anion exchange chromatography to yield an albumin-containing anion exchange product; and
- (3) placing the albumin-containing anion exchange product, without further purification, into a final container for therapeutic use.

Claim 55 (previously amended): A process according to Claim 54 wherein the albumin solution subjected to cation exchange chromatography in step (1) of claim 54 contains glycosylated albumin and the glycosylated albumin is bound during the said cation exchange step.

Claim 56 (previously added): A process according to Claim 54 wherein the cation exchange step utilises a matrix which comprises immobilised sulfopropyl substituents as cation exchangers.

Claim 57 has been canceled.

Claim 58 (previously amended): A process according to Claim 54 wherein the albumin solution subjected to cation exchange chromatography in step (1) of claim 54 has an albumin concentration of 10-250g.L⁻¹.

Claim 59 (previously amended): A process according to Claim 54 wherein the albumin solution subjected to cation exchange chromatography in step (1) of claim 54 has an octanoate ion concentration of 2-15mM.

Claim 60 (previously amended): A process according to Claim 54 wherein the albumin solution subjected to cation exchange chromatography in step (1) of claim 54 has an octanoate ion concentration of 5-10mM.

Claim 61 (previously amended): A process according to Claim 54 wherein prior to the cation exchange step the albumin solution undergoes at least one step selected from the group consisting of: (i) pH adjustment; (ii) concentration; (iii) diafiltration; and (iv) conditioning by addition of a fatty acid.

Claim 62 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 61 wherein prior to the cation exchange step the albumin solution undergoes conditioning by addition of an octanoate salt.

Claim 63 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 54 wherein the anion exchange step utilises a matrix which comprises immobilised dialkylaminoalkyl substituents as anion exchangers.

Claim 64 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 54 wherein the anion exchange step is run in the negative mode with respect to the albumin.

Claim 65 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 64 wherein the albumin solution which undergoes anion exchange chromatography has a pH of 4.0-5.2.

Claim 66 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 64 wherein the albumin solution which undergoes anion exchange chromatography has a conductivity of less than 4.0mS.cm^{-1} .

Claim 67 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 54 wherein the anion exchange step is run in positive mode with respect to the albumin.

Claim 68 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 67 wherein the albumin solution which undergoes positive mode anion exchange chromatography has a pH of 6.0-8.0.

Claim 69 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 67 wherein the concentration of the albumin in the albumin solution which undergoes positive mode anion exchange chromatography is $10\text{-}100\text{g.L}^{-1}$

Claim 70 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 67 wherein the albumin solution which undergoes positive mode anion exchange chromatography has a conductivity of $1.0\text{-}1.5\text{mS.cm}^{-1}$.

Claim 71 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 67 wherein the albumin is eluted in the anion exchange step using a buffer comprising a compound having a specific affinity for albumin.

Claim 72 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 71 wherein the buffer comprises 20-90mM phosphoric acid salt.

Claim 73 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 67 wherein the albumin is eluted in the anion exchange step with a buffer of pH6.0-8.0.

Claim 74 (previously amended): A process according to Claim 54 wherein, prior to the anion exchange step, the albumin solution undergoes at least one step selected from the group consisting of: buffer exchange; concentration; dilution; dialysis; diafiltration; pH-adjustment; treatment with a reducing agent; decolouration treatment; heating; cooling; and conditioning.

Claim 75 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 54 wherein the process is preceded by at least one step selected from the group consisting of: fermentation; primary separation; concentration; conditioning; cation exchange chromatography; anion exchange chromatography; and affinity chromatography.

Claim 76 (currently amended): A process for purifying an albumin solution, the process comprising

- (1) subjecting the albumin solution, ~~at pH 5.0-6.0,~~ to cation exchange chromatography in the negative mode with respect to the albumin in order to yield an albumin-containing cation exchange product;
- (2) subjecting the albumin-containing cation exchange product, with or without intervening purification steps, to anion exchange chromatography to yield an albumin-containing anion exchange product; and
- (3) placing the albumin-containing anion exchange product, without further purification, into a final container for therapeutic use,

wherein the albumin-containing anion exchange product is subjected to at least one step selected from the group consisting of buffer exchange; concentration; dilution; dialysis; diafiltration; pH-adjustment; treatment with a reducing agent; heating; cooling; and conditioning, before being placed into the said final container.

Claim 77 (previously amended): A process according to Claim 76 wherein the albumin solution subjected to cation exchange chromatography in step (1) of claim 54 contains glycosylated albumin and the glycosylated albumin is bound during the said cation exchange step.

Claim 78 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 76 wherein prior to the cation exchange step the albumin solution undergoes at least one step selected from the group consisting of: (i) pH-adjustment; (ii) concentration; (iii) diafiltration; and (iv) conditioning by addition of a fatty acid.

Claim 79 (currently amended): A process for purifying an albumin solution, the process comprising

- (1) subjecting the albumin solution to anion exchange chromatography in order to yield an albumin-containing anion exchange product;
- (2) subjecting the albumin-containing anion exchange product, with or without intervening purification steps, to cation exchange chromatography run in the negative mode with respect to the albumin at ~~pH 5.0~~—6.0 to yield an albumin-containing cation exchange product; and
- (3) placing the albumin-containing cation exchange product, without further purification, into a final container for therapeutic use,

wherein the albumin-containing cation exchange product is subjected to at least one step selected from the group consisting of buffer exchange; concentration; dilution; dialysis; diafiltration; pH-adjustment; treatment with a reducing agent; heating; cooling; and conditioning, before being placed into the said final container.

Claim 80 (previously amended): A process according to Claim 79 wherein the albumin solution subjected to cation exchange chromatography in step (1) of claim 54

contains glycosylated albumin and the glycosylated albumin is bound during the said cation exchange step.

Claim 81 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 79 wherein prior to the cation exchange step the albumin solution undergoes at least one step selected from the group consisting of: (i) pH-adjustment; (ii) concentration; (iii) diafiltration; and (iv) conditioning by addition of a fatty acid.

Claim 82 (currently amended): A process for purifying an albumin solution, the process comprising the steps of:

- (i) subjecting an albumin solution to a cation exchange chromatography step run in positive mode with respect to the albumin;
- (ii) collecting an albumin-containing cation exchange eluate;
- (iii) subjecting the cation exchange eluate to an anion exchange chromatography step run in positive mode with respect to the albumin;
- (iv) collecting an albumin-containing anion exchange eluate;
- (v) subjecting the anion exchange eluate to an affinity chromatography step run in positive mode with respect to the albumin;
- (vi) collecting an albumin-containing affinity chromatography eluate;
- (vii) subjecting the affinity chromatography eluate to an affinity chromatography step run in negative mode with respect to the albumin and in positive mode with respect to glycoconjugates;
- (viii) collecting the albumin-containing affinity chromatography flow through;
- (ix) subjecting the affinity chromatography flow through to a cation exchange chromatography step run in negative mode with respect to the albumin at pH 5.0—6.0;
- (x) collecting the albumin-containing cation exchange flow through;

- (xi) subjecting the cation exchange flow through to an anion exchange chromatography step run in negative mode; and
 - (xii) collecting the albumin-containing anion exchange flow through from step (xi) 0;
- thereby providing a purified albumin solution.

Claim 83 (currently amended): A process for purifying an albumin solution, the process comprising the steps of:

- (i). subjecting an albumin solution to a cation exchange chromatography step run in positive mode with respect to the albumin;
- (ii). collecting an albumin-containing cation exchange eluate;
- (iii). subjecting the cation exchange eluate to an anion exchange chromatography step run in positive mode with respect to the albumin;
- (iv). collecting an albumin-containing anion exchange eluate;
- (v). subjecting the anion exchange eluate to an affinity chromatography step run in positive mode with respect to the albumin;
- (vi). collecting an albumin-containing affinity chromatography eluate;
- (vii). subjecting the affinity chromatography eluate to an affinity chromatography step run in negative mode with respect to the albumin and in positive mode with respect to glycoconjugates;
- (viii). collecting the albumin-containing affinity chromatography flow through;
- (ix). subjecting the affinity chromatography flow through to a cation exchange chromatography step run in negative mode with respect to the albumin at ~~pH 5.0—6.0~~;
- (x). collecting the albumin-containing cation exchange flow through;
- (xi). subjecting the cation exchange flow through to an anion exchange chromatography step run in positive mode; and

- (xii). eluting from the anion exchange matrix an anion exchange eluate,
thereby providing a purified albumin solution.

Claim 84 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 82 wherein any of the said purification steps are optionally preceded or followed by at least one step selected from the group consisting of: buffer exchange; concentration; dilution; dialysis; diafiltration; pH-adjustment; treatment with a reducing agent; decolouration treatment; heating; cooling; and conditioning.

Claim 85 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 83 wherein any of the said purification steps are optionally preceded or followed by at least one step selected from the group consisting of: buffer exchange; concentration; dilution; dialysis; diafiltration; pH-adjustment; treatment with a reducing agent; decolouration treatment; heating; cooling; and conditioning.

Claim 86 (currently amended): A process for purifying an albumin solution, the process comprising the steps of:

- (i) subjecting an albumin solution to a cation exchange chromatography step run in positive mode with respect to the albumin;
- (ii) collecting an albumin-containing cation exchange eluate;
- (iii) subjecting the cation exchange eluate to an anion exchange chromatography step run in positive mode with respect to the albumin;
- (iv) collecting an albumin-containing anion exchange eluate;
- (v) subjecting the anion exchange eluate to an affinity chromatography step run in positive mode with respect to the albumin;
- (vi) collecting an albumin-containing affinity chromatography eluate;

- (vii) subjecting the affinity chromatography eluate to an affinity chromatography step run in negative mode with respect to the albumin and in positive mode with respect to glycoconjugates;
- (viii) collecting the albumin-containing affinity chromatography flow through;
- (ix) subjecting the affinity matrix flow through to an anion exchange chromatography step run in negative mode with respect to the albumin;
- (x) collecting the albumin-containing anion exchange flow through from step (ix);
- (xi) subjecting the albumin solution purified by the anion exchange chromatography step to a cation exchange chromatography step run in negative mode with respect to the albumin at pH 5.0—6.0; and
- (xii) collecting the albumin-containing cation exchange flow through, thereby providing a purified albumin solution.

Claim 87 (currently amended): A process for purifying an albumin solution, the process comprising the steps of:

- (i). subjecting an albumin solution to a cation exchange chromatography step run in positive mode with respect to the albumin;
- (ii). collecting an albumin-containing cation exchange eluate;
- (iii). subjecting the cation exchange eluate to an anion exchange chromatography step run in positive mode with respect to the albumin;
- (iv). collecting an albumin-containing anion exchange eluate;
- (v). subjecting the anion exchange eluate to an affinity chromatography step run in positive mode with respect to the albumin;
- (vi). collecting an albumin-containing affinity chromatography eluate;

- (vii). subjecting the affinity chromatography eluate to an affinity chromatography step run in negative mode with respect to the albumin and in positive mode with respect to glycoconjugates;
- (viii). collecting the albumin-containing affinity chromatography flow through;
- (ix). subjecting the affinity matrix flow through to an anion exchange chromatography step run in positive mode with respect to the albumin;
- (x). eluting from the anion exchange matrix an anion exchange eluate;
- (xi). subjecting the albumin solution purified by the anion exchange chromatography step to a cation exchange chromatography step run in negative mode with respect to the albumin at pH 5.0—6.0; and
- (xii). collecting the albumin-containing cation exchange flow through, thereby providing a purified albumin solution.

Claim 88 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 86 wherein any of the said purification steps are optionally preceded or followed by at least one step selected from the group consisting of: buffer exchange; concentration; dilution; dialysis; diafiltration; pH-adjustment; addition of reducing agent; decolouration treatment; heating; cooling; and conditioning.

Claim 89 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 87 wherein any of the said purification steps are optionally preceded or followed by at least one step selected from the group consisting of: buffer exchange; concentration; dilution; dialysis; diafiltration; pH-adjustment; addition of reducing agent; decolouration treatment; heating; cooling; and conditioning.

Claim 90 (currently amended): A process for purifying an albumin solution, the process comprising

- (1) subjecting the albumin solution to anion exchange chromatography in order to yield an albumin-containing anion exchange product;
- (2) subjecting the albumin-containing anion exchange product, with or without intervening purification steps, to cation exchange chromatography run in the negative mode with respect to the albumin at ~~pH 5.0~~ ~~6.0~~ to yield an albumin-containing cation exchange product; and
- (3) placing the albumin-containing cation exchange product, without further purification, into a final container for therapeutic use, thereby providing a purified albumin solution.

Claim 91 (previously amended): A process according to Claim 90 wherein the albumin solution subjected to cation exchange chromatography in step (1) of claim 90 contains glycosylated albumin and the glycosylated albumin is bound during the said cation exchange step

Claim 92 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 90 wherein the cation exchange step utilises a matrix which comprises immobilised sulfopropyl substituents as cation exchangers.

Claim 93 has been canceled.

Claim 94 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 90 wherein the albumin solution that undergoes cation exchange chromatography has an albumin concentration of 10-250g.L⁻¹.

Claim 95 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 90 wherein the albumin solution that undergoes cation exchange chromatography has an octanoate ion concentration of 2-15mM.

Claim 96 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 90 wherein prior to the cation exchange step the albumin solution undergoes at least one step selected from the group consisting of: (i) pH adjustment; (ii) concentration; (iii) diafiltration; and (iv) conditioning by addition of a fatty acid.

Claim 97 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 96 wherein prior to the cation exchange step the albumin solution undergoes conditioning by addition of an octanoate salt.

Claim 98 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 90 wherein the anion exchange step utilises a matrix which comprises immobilised dialkylaminoalkyl substituents as anion exchangers.

Claim 99 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 90 wherein the anion exchange step is run in the negative mode with respect to the albumin.

Claim 100 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 99 wherein the albumin solution which undergoes anion exchange chromatography has a pH of 4.0-5.2.

Claim 101 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 99 wherein the albumin solution which undergoes anion exchange chromatography has a conductivity of less than 4.0mS.cm^{-1} .

Claim 102 (previously amended): A process according to Claim 90 wherein the anion exchange step is run in positive mode with respect to the albumin.

Claim 103 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 102 wherein the albumin solution which undergoes positive mode anion exchange chromatography has a pH of 6.0-8.0.

Claim 104 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 102 wherein the concentration of the albumin in the albumin solution which undergoes positive mode anion exchange chromatography is 10-100g.L⁻¹

Claim 105 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 102 wherein the albumin solution which undergoes positive mode anion exchange chromatography has a conductivity of 1.0-1.5mS.cm⁻¹.

Claim 106 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 102 wherein the albumin is eluted in the anion exchange step using a buffer comprising a compound having a specific affinity for albumin.

Claim 107 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 106 wherein the buffer comprises 20-90mM phosphoric acid salt.

Claim 108 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 102 wherein the albumin is eluted in the anion exchange step with a buffer of pH6.0-8.0.

Claim 109 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 90 wherein, prior to the cation exchange step, the albumin solution undergoes at least one step selected from the group consisting of: buffer exchange; concentration; dilution; dialysis; diafiltration; pH-adjustment; treatment with a reducing agent; decolouration treatment; heating; cooling; and conditioning.

Claim 110 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 90 wherein the process is preceded by at least one step selected from the group consisting of: fermentation; primary separation; centrate conditioning; cation exchange chromatography; anion exchange; and affinity chromatography.

Claim 111 (currently amended): A process for purifying an albumin solution, the process comprising

- (1) subjecting the albumin solution to anion exchange chromatography in order to yield an albumin-containing anion exchange product;
- (2) subjecting the albumin-containing anion exchange product, with or without intervening purification steps, to cation exchange chromatography run in the negative mode with respect to the albumin at ~~pH 5.0~~—6.0 to yield an albumin-containing cation exchange product; and
- (3) placing the albumin-containing cation exchange product, without further purification, into a final container for therapeutic use,

wherein, prior to the cation exchange step, the albumin solution undergoes at least one step selected from the group consisting of: buffer exchange; concentration; dilution; dialysis; diafiltration; pH-adjustment; treatment with a reducing agent; decolouration treatment; heating; cooling; and conditioning.

Claim 112 (previously amended): A process according to Claim 111 wherein the albumin solution subjected to cation exchange chromatography in step (1) of claim 111 contains glycosylated albumin and the glycosylated albumin is bound during the said cation exchange step.

Claim 113 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 111 wherein prior to the cation exchange step the albumin solution undergoes at least one step selected

from the group consisting of: (i) pH-adjustment; (ii) concentration; (iii) diafiltration; and (iv) conditioning by addition of a fatty acid.

Claim 114 (new): A process according to Claim 54 wherein the albumin solution that undergoes cation exchange chromatography has a pH of 4.5-6.0.

Claim 115 (new): A process according to Claim 90 wherein the albumin solution that undergoes cation exchange chromatography has a pH of 4.5-6.0.